Message Text

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O 131027Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1715
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL PRETORIA 3960

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PDEV, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: SAG AWAITING REPORT ON LUANDA

REF: STATE 176430

1. AFTER QUICK CONSULTATION WITH BRITISH AMBASSADOR SCOTT WHO HAD ALREADY RECEIVED AN INQUIRY FROM FOURIE AS TO WHETHER WE HAD MORE DETAILS ON LUANDA CONFERENCE, I CALLED FOURIE AND MADE POINTS IN REFTEL. I DID NOT CONSULT OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FIVE IN ADVANCE AS BOTH SCOTT AND I HAD HAD URGENT PRESS QUERIES, AND SCOTT SAID FOURIE HAD MENTIONED BEING PRESSED FOR COMMENT ON NEWS FROM LUANDA. IN CIRCUMSTANCES IT SEEMED URGENT TO SPEAK WITH FOURIE TO FORESTALL ANY ADVERSE REACTION SHOULD JOURNALISTS BEGIN TO ASK HIM ABOUT WALVIS BAY OR OTHER ASPECTS OF LUANDA DISCUSSIONS (SO FAR UNREPORTED HERE). I INFORMED THE OTHER THREE OF MY APPROACH TO FOURIE AFTERWARD AND THEY APPROVED.

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2. FOURIE WAS APPRECIATIVE OF MY CALL, TOOK NOTEOF THE FIRST POINT I MADE (RE OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT SWAPO AGREED TO PROPOSALS WITHOUT CHANGE AND OUR EXPECTATION OF MOVING PROMPTLY TO UNSC), AND SAID MY URGING THAT HE NOT REACT TO PRESS REPORTS UNTIL HE HAD RECEIVED OUR PRESENTATION OF THE CONTACT GROUP'S REPORT ACCORDED WITH HIS OWN INSTINCTS. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD ACCORDINGLY

RESPOND TO PRESS INQUIRIES BY SAYING THAT HE WOULD NOT COMMENT UNTIL HE HAD RECEIVED A REPORT FROM THE FIVE WESTERN POWERS.

3. MEMBERS OF THE PRETORIA FIVE ARE LIMITING THEIR COMMENT TO THE PRESS TO SAYING ONLY THAT WE DO NOT HAVE COMPLETE INFORMATION YET, BUT THE RESULTS LOOK VERY ENCOURAGING.
EDMONDSON

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